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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

O God, our Father, who fills the universe with the mysteries of Your power, give Your light to our Senators. Illuminate their paths with Your wisdom that they may embrace Your precepts and seek Your truth. Make the light of Your truth guide them as they seek to solve the complex problems of our time. Lord, help them to see the things they ought to do and give them the courage to act. Show them where to go, how they should decide, and which pitfalls they should avoid. Guided by Your light, lead them to Your desired destination, as they find joy in both serving and loving You.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, November 15, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,  
President pro tempore.

Mrs. SHAHEEN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. The Republican leader and I will make a few remarks today. After that, the majority will hold the first half and the Republicans the final half of 1 hour in morning business. Following morning business, the Senate will be in executive session to consider the Gleason and Rogers nominations. At this stage, we have two scheduled votes. We are going to work with the managers, Senators LEAHY and GRASSLEY, and see whether we need that second vote, and that decision will be made later this morning. At around 12, there will be, as I indicated, up to two rollcall votes on confirmation of these nominations. Following that vote, the Senate will recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings. At 2:15, we will resume consideration of the Energy and Water appropriations bill.

As I indicated yesterday, we have a lot to do. Thanksgiving is the week after the day after tomorrow, and we have a lot of things we have to complete.

I gave my word that we are going to do the Defense authorization bill. It still hasn't been worked out to the satisfaction of everyone, but there comes a time when we have to stop negotiating and move to the legislation. We are going to do that following our finishing the next minibus we have. It will be wonderful if we can complete that quickly. As I indicated yesterday, I am not going to fill the legislative tree, but I don't know how much time

we are going to be able to spend on this with never-ending amendments. What I would like to do is what we have done in the past, which is to have people offer amendments. But we have to have some kind of a limit that will be self-imposed—that we will have maybe 10 stacked amendments and we will have to figure out some way to dispose of those before we move to another batch of amendments. We will work our way through that. Our staffs, Mr. Myrick and Mr. Schiappa, have been working to see if they can help us work through these issues we have.

We also have the CR we have to do. We hope we will have the first minibus conference completed on that, and we will finish that this work period.

So there is a lot to do. When we come back after Thanksgiving, we only have 3 or 4 weeks until we are there at Christmas.

As I said yesterday, it looks as if we are going to be able to finish our work here at a reasonable time this week. I hope we don't have to work this weekend, and I hope we don't have to work next week. I don't think we will have to do that, but everyone should be prepared in case we do because we have some things that have to be done, such as the CR.

When we come back after the Thanksgiving recess, I tell everyone now that we are not going to be able to do our normal short weeks here. So people are going to have to spend less time at home because the workload after Thanksgiving is really full of lots to do. Again, we have expiring tax provisions we have to work on. If we are fortunate, if the committee comes up with something, that is 30 hours they will have to debate that issue. So we have to be prepared after Thanksgiving to just be here until we are ready to leave for Christmas.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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